

# McN, Taylor Sent to Viet

NEWPORT, R.I., Sept. 21 (AP).—President Kennedy today ordered his two top military advisors to go to Saigon to review the military situation in strife-torn Vietnam.

Secretary of Defense McNamara and Gen. Maxwell B. Taylor, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, leave Monday for a week's on a first-hand study of the military effort against the Communist Vietcong.

The announcement of the mission came as American military men in Vietnam reported the Communists stepping up their offensive, with more than 700 Vietnamese casualties in the last week alone—possibly higher than the Communist losses for the first time in their long struggle. The increased activity was regarded as an attempt to capitalize on disturbances which followed the government crackdown on Buddhists.

**THEIR REPORT** to the President will have a major bearing on the future of the \$1,000,000-a-day U. S. aid to the government of President Ngo Dinh Diem.

A number of Congressmen have demanded the withdrawal of aid.

The White House announcement followed consultations with Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge and others at the top level.

The President in recent weeks has said the Diem government has lost touch with the people. But he also has said it would not be wise to cut off U. S. aid to South Vietnam.

The President and Ambassa-

dor Lodge believe that in the present situation it will be helpful to have a review by Secretary McNamara and Gen. Taylor of the military effort against the Vietcong," the White House statement said.

Both McNamara and Taylor visited Vietnam last year. McNamara in May and Taylor in September.

McNamara and Taylor will be accompanied by Arthur Sylvester, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs, and William Bundy, Deputy Assistant Secretary for International Security. Col. Sidney Berry and Marine Col. George W. Carrington also will go with them.

About 15,000 Americans are in South Vietnam, most of them connected with the American diplomatic or military missions.

**THE FIGHT** against the Communist guerillas has been complicated by the bitter dispute between Buddhist factions charging persecution by the Roman Catholic Diem family.

In other developments, Gen. Paul D. Harkins, commander of the American military establishment in South Vietnam, said "he can categorically say that we are winning the war in the Mekong Delta" against the Communist guerillas.

Mme Ngo Dinh Nhu, South Vietnam's First Lady, arrived in Rome today and said she had no plans to see Pope Paul to explain her family's position in her troubled nation.

Mme Nhu, a Roman Catholic, is on a world tour to explain her government's stand in its dispute with Buddhists. She comes to New York in October.

Reporters were told by Viet embassy personnel today to leave her alone or she will "burn you like a bunch of bonzes" (Buddhist

